Steering Committee

Monday, July 12, 2021

Welcome and Review of Monday's Events

Forum Chair Dean Folkers (Nebraska Department of Education) welcomed the Steering Committee to the meeting and invited members to share their thoughts and comments on the day's events.

- 105 individuals attended the opening session; 36 attended the National Education Statistics Agenda Committee (NESAC); 30 attended the Policies, Programs, and Implementation (PPI) Committee; and 26 attended the Technology (TECH) Committee.
- Steven Hernandez's Cybersecurity in State and Local Education Agencies (SEAs and LEAs) presentation slides will be shared with the full Forum.
- NESAC members were very engaged in the day's discussions and most members turned on their cameras.
- PPI Committee members took some time to warm up during the day's discussions. Members were very engaged in the breakout discussions. Only half of the members turned on their cameras in the main PPI room, but everyone turned their cameras on during the breakouts.
- TECH Committee members had good conversations, but some members did not turn on their cameras.

Other Issues

- Registration was about the same as for an in-person summer Forum meeting. Some states send both their SEA representative and SEA Alternate representative to in-person summer Forum meetings in Washington, D.C., but many SEA Alternates did not register for this year's virtual meeting.
- While the Steering Committee found that the virtual meeting went well and engagement was better than anticipated, they noted several challenges:
    - It can be tiring to engage in a virtual setting.
    - Some members had trouble connecting to the virtual platform at the start of the opening session.
    - Many members had to step away periodically to attend work meetings.
- The Steering Committee shared suggestions for keeping members engaged in virtual meetings:
    - Make members feel comfortable contributing to the discussion.
    - Try not to call on the same member twice during the day.
    - List Forum members who could be called on to discuss specific topics in the standing committee annotated agendas.
    - Encourage members to save a copy of the chat log so they can access resource links shared by other members.

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Review of Tuesday's Events

Steering Committee members discussed time spent in standing committees and the joint session on virtual education and attendance.

- 89 individuals attended the joint session, 31 attended NESAC, 33 attended PPI, and 27 attended TECH.
- NESAC discussions started slower today compared to yesterday, but over the course of the discussion nearly every member contributed.
- PPI members were more engaged today due to member interest in the topics of education data reporting during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, student registration data, and social-emotional data.
- TECH members were also more engaged today due to member interest in the topics of cybersecurity, data privacy, and data security.
- Members found it helpful to hear the panelists' perspectives during the Virtual Education and Attendance Panel Presentation and Discussion. The panel will generate good discussions around lessons learned during tomorrow's standing committee discussions.

Other Issues

- The Steering Committee requested that the preliminary results of the evaluation be shared.

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Review of Wednesday's Events

Steering Committee members discussed time spent in standing committees and the federal updates on data collections joint session.

- 90 individuals attended the joint session, 31 attended NESAC, 26 attended PPI, and 27 attended TECH.
- NESAC and PPI discussions went well, but waned as the day went on.
- TECH members were the most engaged so far this week. The committee discussed various aspects of virtual education and thanked Allen Miedema (Northshore School District, Washington) for participating in the virtual education and attendance follow-up discussion.
- The Federal Updates on Data Collections: ED*Facts* and the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) presentation generated a lot of discussion with Forum members. The Steering Committee noted that these collections are a heavy burden on SEAs and LEAs. While members appreciated that some data elements are no longer required, new data related to the COVID-19 pandemic will be required, resulting in agencies needing to revisit their data collections. Members noted that it would be helpful if certain data for the CRDC could be pulled from previously submitted ED*Facts* data. The Steering Committee appreciated that the panelists encouraged Forum members to respond to comment requests.

Other Issues

The Steering Committee discussed the following:

- Members are doing their best to remain engaged, but discussions have started to taper off due to the virtual format. Virtual meetings are not sustainable because members continue to be pulled away to attend to responsibilities at work and home.
- The preliminary evaluation comments have been positive so far. Ghedam Bairu (National Center for Education Statistics) will share the complete evaluation results with the Steering Committee when they are available.

Forum Elections
Standing committee chairs reported the results of their elections. Nominated chairs and vice chairs for the 2021-22 year were as follows:

- NESAC Chair: Gunes Kaplan, Nevada Department of Education
- NESAC Vice Chair: Laura Hansen, Metro Nashville Public Schools, Tennessee
- PPI Chair: Linda Jenkins, Arkansas Department of Education
- PPI Vice Chair: Stephen Gervais, San Bernardino City Unified School District, California
- TECH Chair: Dawn Gessel, Putnam County Schools, West Virginia
- TECH Vice Chair: Chandra Haislet, Maryland State Department of Education

The Steering Committee nominated Marilyn King (Bozeman School District #7, Montana) as the Forum Chair and Georgia Hughes-Webb (West Virginia Department of Education) as the Forum Vice Chair for 2021-22.

Ghedam Bairu thanked NESAC Chair Cheryl L. VanNoy (Saint Louis Public Schools, Missouri), PPI Chair Bradley McMillen (Wake County Public School System, North Carolina), and TECH Chair DeDe Conner (Kentucky Department of Education) for their service.

Thursday, July 15, 2021
Welcome to New Steering Committee Chairs
Newly elected Chair Marilyn King welcomed new Steering Committee members to the meeting.

Review of Thursday's Events
Steering Committee members reviewed the time spent in standing committees and the Forum closing session.

- 75 individuals attended the closing session, 31 attended NESAC, 31 attended PPI, and 23 attended TECH.
- NESAC discussions went very well today. It can be difficult for some members to follow the chat and verbal discussion at the same time, but Cheryl L. VanNoy helped members by reading the chat log.
- PPI members enjoyed the breakout discussions and would like to hold breakouts during in-person summer Forum meetings as well.
- TECH members were very engaged today, although half of the members continued to not use their cameras. TECH members were in consensus that in-person summer Forum meetings are preferable to virtual meetings.
- The Working with Online Service Providers and Apps presentation by the Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) Team was timely and very well received. Forum members always appreciate presentations by PTAC and the Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) because they explain information in a new way that helps improve understanding and can be directly used in SEAs and LEAs.

Other Issues

- The Steering Committee noted that this year's summer Forum meeting was unique due to the virtual format and because of the COVID-19 pandemic. They commended Forum members for contributing to the meeting and discussions.
- The Steering Committee expressed interest in a one-day virtual meeting in January 2022. The meeting would include a joint session presentation and time for standing committee discussions.
- Ghedam will share the draft meeting notes and action items with the Steering Committee. The action items will help to Steering Committee consider what resources the Forum could produce in the coming year.

Steering Committee conference calls will resume in October 2021. They will be scheduled on the third Friday of each month at 12:00 pm (Eastern).